Numb. 269

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

——— *Hæ Nugæ ſeria ducunt*
In mala. ——— Hor.

From *Tueſday December* 26. to *Thurſday December* 28. 1710.

From my own Apartment, December 27.

I FIND my Correſpondents are univerſally offended at me for taking Notice ſo ſeldom of their Letters, and fear People have taken the Advantage of my Silence to go on in their Errors; for which Reaſon I ſhall hereafter be more careful to anſwer all lawful Queſtions and juſt Complaints as ſoon as they come to my Hands. The Two following Epiſtles relate to very great Miſchiefs in the moſt important Articles of Life, Love, and Friendſhip.

Mr. *Bickerſtaff*, *Dorſetſhire, Decemb.* 20.

'TIS my Misfortune to be enamoured of a Lady that is neither very beautiful, very witty, nor at all well-natured, but has the Vanity to think ſhe excels in all theſe Qualifications, and therefore is cruel, inſolent, and ſcornful. When I ſtudy to pleaſe her, ſhe treats me with the utmoſt Rudeneſs and ill Manners: If I approach her Perſon, ſhe fights, ſhe ſcratches me: If I offer a civil Salute, ſhe bites me; inſomuch, that very lately, before a whole Aſſembly of Ladies and Gentlemen, ſhe rip'd out a conſiderable Part of my Left Cheek. This is no ſooner done, but ſhe begs my Pardon in the moſt handſome and becoming Terms imaginable, gives her ſelf worſe Language than I could find in my Heart to do, lets me embrace her to pacify her while ſhe is railing at her ſelf, proteſts ſhe deſerves the Eſteem of no one living, ſays I am too good to contradict her when ſhe thus accuſes her ſelf. This attones for all, tempts me to renew my Addreſſes, which are ever returned in the ſame obliging Manner. Thus, without ſome ſpeedy Relief, I am in Danger of loſing my whole Face. Notwithſtanding all this, I doat upon her, and am ſatisfied ſhe loves me, becauſe ſhe takes me for a Man of Senſe, which I have been generally thought, except in this one Inſtance. Your Reflections upon this ſtrange Amour would be very uſeful in theſe Parts, where we are over-run with wild Beauties and Romps. I earneſtly beg your Aſſiſtance, either to deliver me from the Power of this unaccountable Inchantment, or, by ſome proper Animadverſions, civilize the Behaviour of this agreeable Ruſtick. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Ebenezer.

Mr. *Bickerſtaff*,

I Now take Leave to addreſs you in your Character of Cenſor, and complain to you, that among the various Errors in Converſation which you have corrected, there is one which, tho' it has not eſcap'd a general Reproof, yet ſeems to deſerve a more particular Severity. 'Tis an Humour of jeſting on diſagreeable Subjects, and inſiſting on the Jeſt, the more it creates Uneaſineſs; and this ſome Men think they have a Title to do as Friends. Is the Deſign of Jeſting to provoke? Or does Friendſhip give a Privilege to ſay Things with a Deſign to ſhock? How can that be call'd a Jeſt, which has nothing in it but Bitterneſs? 'Tis generally allow'd neceſſary, for the Peace of Company, that Men ſhould a little ſtudy the Tempers of each other; but certainly that muſt be in order to ſhun what's offenſive, not to make it a conſtant Entertainment. The frequent Repetition of what appears harſh, will unavoidably leave a Rancour that's fatal to Friendſhip; and I doubt much, whether it would be an Argument of a Man's good Humour, if he ſhould be rouzed, by perpetual Teazing, to treat thoſe that do it as his Enemies. In a Word, whereas 'tis a common Practice to let a Story die, meerly becauſe it does not touch, I think ſuch as mention one they find does, are as troubleſome to Society, and as unfit for it, as *Wags, Men of Fire, good Talkers*, or any other Apes in Converſation; and therefore, for the publick Benefit, I hope you'll cauſe them to be branded with ſuch a Name as they deſerve. I am

SIR, Yours,

Patient Friendly.

The

The Caſe of *Ebenezer* is a very common one, and is always cured by Neglect. Theſe fantaſtical Returns of Affection proceed from a certain Vanity in the other Sex, ſupported by a perverted Taſt in ours. I muſt publiſh it as a Rule, That no Faults which proceed from the Will, either in a Miſtreſs or a Friend, are to be tolerated: But we ſhould be ſo complaiſant to Ladies, to let them diſpleaſe when they aim at doing it. Pluck up a Spirit, *Ebenezer*, recover the Uſe of your Judgment, and her Faults will appear, or her Beauties vaniſh. *Her Faults begin to pleaſe me as well as my own*, is a Sentence very prettily put into the Mouth of a Lover by the Comick Poet; but he never deſigned it for a Maxim of Life, but the Picture of an Imperfection. If *Ebenezer* takes my Advice, the ſame Temper which made her inſolent to his Love, will make her ſubmiſſive to his Indifference.

I cannot wholly aſcribe the Faults mentioned in the Second Letter to the ſame Vanity or Pride in Companions who ſecretly triumph over their Friends, in being ſharp upon them in Things where they are moſt tender. But when this ſort of Behaviour does not proceed from that Source, it does from Barrenneſs of Invention, and an Inability to ſupport a Converſation in a Way leſs offenſive. It is the ſame Poverty which makes Men ſpeak or write ſmuttily, that forces them to talk vexingly. As obſcene Language is an Addreſs to the Lewd for Applauſe, ſo are ſharp Alluſions an Appeal to the Ill-natur'd. But mean and illiberate is that Converſation where one Man exerciſes his Wit to make another exerciſe his Patience.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas Plagius *has been told again and again, both in publick and private, That he preaches excellently well, and ſtill goes on to preach as well as ever, and all this to a polite and learned Audience; This is to deſire, That he would not hereafter be ſo eloquent, except to a Country Congregation, the Proprietors of* Tillotſon's *Works having conſulted the Learned in the Law, whether preaching a Sermon they have purchaſed is not to be conſtrued publiſhing their Copy.*

Mr. Dogood *is deſired to conſider, that his Story is ſevere upon a Weakneſs, and not a Folly.*

Advertiſements.

☞ The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; on a large Letter in Octavo, being almoſt finiſh'd; ſuch as pleaſe to ſubſcribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are deſired to ſend their Names to Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, or John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where the Firſt and Second Volumes are to be deliver'd.

THE Sale of the Rich BED and HANGINGS, which was ſeen at Weſtminſter and Drapers Hall, will be drawn the 10th of January next. So all Perſons that deſign to become Adventurers, are deſired to take out their Tickets ſpeedily, which are to be had at One Guinea apiece, with new Propoſals, at St. James's and Young Man's Coffee-houſes; at Mr. Lillie's, Perfumer, at Beauford-Buildings, Mrs. Betly's in Bow-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; Mr. Fleming's, Goldſmith, againſt St. Dunſtan's Church; Mr. Moreaux in Leadenhall-ſtreet; Mr. Nath. Carpenter's, Merchant, in St. Clement's-lane, Lombard-ſtreet, (who ſtands Security for the fair Performance) and at the other Places mentioned in the Propoſals. Part of the Goods may be ſeen at the ſaid Mr. Carpenter's and Mrs. Betly's.

*** A Book entitu'd, Phyſico-Mechanical Experiments on various Subjects; or, An Account of ſeveral ſurpriſing Phænomena touching Light and Electricity produceable on the Attrition of Bodies: Together with new Obſervations on the Aſcent of Liquids between the nearly contiguous Surfaces of different Bodies, the Preſſure and Retraction of Air, the different Denſities of that Element, from the greateſt Degree of Heat to that of Cold in this Climate; the Propagation of Sound; and on divers other Heads not before taken Notice of. To which are added, the Explanations of all the Machines, (the Figures of which are done from Copper curiouſly engrav'd) and other Apparatus uſed in making the Experiments. Sold by J. Knapton, H. Clements, R. Smith, Bookſellers; and in Hind's court againſt Water-lane, Fleetſtreet, by the Author F. Hauksbee, F. R. S. 4to. Price bound 6 s.

*** K. S. will protect H. A. if H. A. will ſend a Letter where K. S. can ſee H. A. A Letter directed to K. S. as before, will come ſafe.

OLDISWORTH's Record-Ink-Powder. Each Sixpenny Paper of 3 Ounces makes a Pint of the beſt Ink, or Quart, as by Directions, ſeal'd up. Sold by the Stationers of London and Weſtminſter.

AIR Pumps, both ſingle and double Barrels, with Apparatus for the many Experiments, demonſtrating the ſeveral Properties of the Air; Machines for condenſing Air; ſmall Air Pumps, with Glaſſes for the new and moſt approved Way of Cupping; Scarrificators, one of which at once makes 10, another 13, another 16, effectual Inciſions; Syphons, and Blow-pipes with Valves for Anatomical Injections; Hydroſtatical Ballances for finding the ſpecifick Gravities of Liquids and Solids, with Eaſe and Accuracy: All which, according to their lateſt Improvements, with Directions how to uſe and order them on all Occaſions, are ſold only in Hind-court again Water-lane, Fleetſtreet, by F. Hauksbee, Author of them.

FOR Sale by the Candle, this Day, the 28th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 5 in the Afternoon preciſely, (only one Cask in a Lot) 35 Buts of new Bene-Carlos, deep, bright and ſtrong, and 15 Buts of new Salo, excellent Barcelona Wines, neat and entire, landed on the 23d Inſtant, now in a Warehouſe, Numb. 132. in the Gate-way of Cuſtom-houſe-Key, under the Cuſtom-houſe. To be taſted this Day till the Time of Sale. To be ſold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane, between Tower-ſtreet and Crouched-Fryars.

FOR Sale by the Candle, to Morrow, the 29th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon, about 60 Hhds and 12 Tierces of new excellent French Obrion Clarets of the very laſt Vintage, conſiſting of the beſt Qualities, the entire Cargo of a French Prize lately arrived in the River, and landed the 22d of this Inſtant. To be taſted this Day from 8 to 1, and from 2 till 5, and to Morrow till the Time of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Wedneſday the 10th of January next, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 after Noon, about 36 Tuns of new excellent French (Prize) Claret, freſh, deep, bright, and of a moſt curious Flavour, of the beſt Growths, and of the very laſt Vintage; 5 Puncheons of French (Prize) Brandy, 4 Tuns of new French (Prize) White Wine, extraordinary good; 28 Barrels of new ſuperfine Pruants, and 22 Cheſts of very good Soap; the entire Cargoes of two French Prizes brought into Dartmouth by Capt. Daniel Naſtell of Guernſey, now in the Cuſtody of Mr. Tho. Plumley, Merchant, in Dartmouth aforeſaid. And there ſhall be expos'd to View and Taſt the aforementioned Wines, Brandy, Pruants, and Soap, till the Time of Sale. Catalogues ſhall be timely diſperſed. To be ſold by Thomas Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane.

LOST near St. Swithen's Church in Cannon-ſtreet, on Tueſday laſt the 26th Inſtant, a plain Gold Caſe of a Watch: Whoever brings it to Mr. Ruſſin's, a Silverſmith, at the Sign of the Cup in Swithen's-lane, ſhall have 20 Shillings Reward, and no Queſtions aſked.

THE German or New-faſhion Ornamental Bird-Cages, with Chryſtal Glaſſes, which effectually prevent the Litterings of the Seeds into the Rooms, and which Glaſſes may be fixed to any other Cages. Alſo Pullies, Lines, and Counter-weights, Maw-feeds, with all manner of Bird-ſeeds, and other Things convenient both for Birds and Cages, at reaſonable Rates, by J. Meyer the German, at the Bird-Cage in Long-acre, near the Wood-yard. Note, Thoſe Cages that are proffered about the Streets, are not of his Making, nor the ſame, neither will they keep their Beauty.

AT the Inſurance Office on Marriages and Births, by the Secure Society, at the Hand and Glove in Great Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, are Three Offices on Marriage, one of 5 s. one of 2 s. and one of 1 s. a Claim. Note, At the ſame Place are Two Offices on Births juſt now opened for two Months, by a Weekly Dividend of 500 l. and 250 l. as may be ſeen at large in the Propoſals which are to be had at the Office gratis. And that which manifeſts this to be the ſecure Society is, that 1000 l. Security is already given to the Truſtees for the due Performance of all Articles in theſe Offices.

AT a certain Charge, Yeſterday being the 27th Inſtant, at the Office of Inſurance on Marriages and Births by the Society without Loſs, in the little Piazza, Covent-Garden, was open'd Two Books on Marriages by Way of Weekly Payment and Dividend; the firſt, on the paying of 10 s. per Week, may receive a Dividend of 1000 l. the other, on the paying 3 s. per Week, may receive a Dividend of 300 l. and if but one Claim ſhould be made in any one Week, the Claimant may receive 1300 l. if they have ſubſcribed in both Societies. Note, The 1ſt 200 will be admitted to make their Claims at Two Months.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertiſements are taken in.